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FEDERAL PROSECUTOR TO FOCUS ON GAMING RELATED CRIMES IN ARIZONA

Program is the first of its kind in the nation

PHOENIX - In a joint program with the Arizona Department of Gaming, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona has added Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Brnovich to the Phoenix office to focus on the prosecution of gaming related crimes throughout Arizona. The first of its kind in the nation, the program provides funding by the Arizona Department of Gaming for Brnovich's position.

Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) and Arizona tribal leaders, representing the 19 members of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association (AIGA), initiated the concept of these agencies working jointly to obtain criminal prosecutions of casino crimes. The tribes and tribal gaming regulators told ADG that they wanted more criminal enforcement to protect tribal assets and the gaming public. The tribes and the Arizona Department of Gaming work in tandem to constantly improve gaming regulation.

U.S. Attorney Daniel G. Knauss stated that "The U.S. Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of felonies on tribal land in Arizona and we appreciate the assistance of the Arizona Department of Gaming and the Arizona Indian Gaming Association that will enable us to more effectively prosecute gaming crimes in Arizona Indian country."

"This agreement sends a message to criminals that Arizona won't tolerate casino crimes," said Paul A. Bullis, director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. "The threat of federal criminal prosecution will deter unscrupulous individuals from attempting to defraud tribal casinos or the gaming public."

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed since the beginning of the program in 2005 outlines the responsibilities of each agency. ADG funds the Assistant U.S. Attorney position for five years. At least \$100,000 annually is required to be used to provide training to tribal and ADG personnel to enhance the interdiction and prosecution of criminal offenses. Examples of training in the past two years have included casino security and surveillance and slot machine technology.

"This MOU established the first position of its kind in the U.S. to authorize prosecutorial resources to combat crime at Indian gaming establishments. As owners and operators of these facilities, tribal leaders in Arizona wanted to make sure that their facilities have

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the best resources available to them to handle any problems that may occur in their casinos. We owe nothing less to our patrons,” added Sheila Morago, Executive Director, Arizona Indian Gaming Association.

Brnovich served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Arizona representing the Department of Gaming for five years and while in that position was involved in negotiating the current gaming compacts and represented the Department of Gaming in court and administrative hearings. For another six years he served as a Deputy County Attorney in Maricopa County, assigned to the gang unit working with the violent street gang task force. Immediately prior to his assignment to the U.S. Attorney’s office, Brnovich was a Senior Director for the Corrections Corporation of America, a nationwide private prison provider. He is also the former Director of the Goldwater Institute’s Center for Constitutional Government. Throughout his extensive career, he has had the opportunity to work with law enforcement officials from a variety of federal, state, and local agencies.

Brnovich holds a law degree from the University of San Diego Law School and majored in political science at Arizona State University. Brnovich also served as a Command Staff Judge Advocate General in the Arizona Army National Guard. He is admitted to practice in Arizona, California, before the Federal District Court in Arizona and before the U.S. Supreme Court.

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